UNITED NATIONS

TCDC

Technical cooperation among developing countries

Distr.
LIMITED

TCDC/11/L.4
2 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Eleventh session
New York, 1-4 June 1999

A. REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION AND THE DECISIONS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOUTH COMMISSION REPORT

Proposal by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which the Assembly adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Reaffirming the validity and relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Recalling the General Assembly resolutions on technical cooperation among developing countries, the latest of which were resolution 52/205 of 18 December 1997 and section II.E.1 of resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998,

Taking note of the final document of the Twelfth Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[2]

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] A/53/667-S/1998/1071.

Taking note also of the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-second annual meeting, held in New York on 25 September 1998,[3]

Taking note further of the report prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme,[4]

1. Reaffirms the great potential of technical cooperation among developing countries, which has now gained widespread acceptance as an innovative and effective instrument of technical cooperation, and urges developing countries to further continue to elaborate national policies and strategies for technical cooperation among developing countries so as to give full effect to this form of cooperation;

2. Welcomes the significant increase in technical cooperation among developing countries activities, both in number and in sectoral coverage, reported by developing countries and the United Nations system;

3. Also welcomes the growing interest in and support for technical cooperation among developing countries by a number of donors, including through triangular cooperation;

4. Reaffirms the call on all partners in the development effort to give first consideration to the use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in their technical cooperation programmes and projects;

5. Encourages developing countries that have not yet done so to establish national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries and, where focal points have already been established, to ensure their effective and efficient functioning;

6. Stresses that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development and an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance, as well as a means of ensuring the effective integration and participation of developing countries in the world economy, and that it is not a substitute for but rather is complementary to North-South cooperation;

7. Stresses also the need for further concerted efforts to be made by the United Nations organizations and agencies, including the regional commissions, to increasingly integrate technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes, policies and procedures;

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[3] A/53/466, annex.

[4] TCDC/11/1.

8. Reiterates that South-South cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and, in that connection, emphasizes the need to effectively promote triangular approaches to facilitate South-South programmes and projects;

9. Also reiterates the recommendations contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action that international institutions and developed countries, in designing, formulating and executing projects for technical cooperation in developing countries, give priority to the use of local capabilities, consultancy and expertise and, where not available, to the use of technical resources from other developing countries;

10. Welcomes the increased interregional technical cooperation among developing countries activities undertaken by both developing countries and the United Nations system, such as the exchanges among countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean;

11. Calls upon the international community, given the importance accorded to South-South cooperation, to increase financial resources for such cooperation;

12. Urges international organizations and donor countries, in the context of triangular arrangements and the increased use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, to increase their financial support for technical cooperation among developing countries activities;

13. Notes with satisfaction the success of the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, including the commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on 7 October 1998 which, inter alia, reaffirmed the continued validity and relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and called for the increased and expanded utilization of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in development cooperation;

14. Notes the high-level panel discussion organized by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on building partnerships for South-South cooperation in the new millennium, as well as the exhibition entitled "Building Bridges Across the South" held in the context of the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

15. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its twelfth session a comprehensive biennial report on the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, as well as on the implementation of the present decision.

B. REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW DIRECTIONS STRATEGY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Proposal by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/119 of 20 December 1995 and 52/205 of 18 December 1997, as well as the related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on economic cooperation among developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling its decisions 9/2 of 2 June 1995 and 10/1 B of 9 May 1997 on the "Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries",

Reaffirming the continued relevance and validity of the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Stressing that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and equitable development and for ensuring their effective participation in the newly emerging global economic system,

1. Recognizes that important progress has been made by Member States and the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, and, in this context, commends the efforts of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in orienting its activities fully in line with the new directions strategy;

2. Recognizes also that while progress has been made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, further progress can be achieved through, inter alia, the availability and provision of adequate resources, strengthening the participating institutions and enhancing the awareness of and the commitment to the technical cooperation among developing countries modality;

3. Stresses the need to further mobilize additional financial resources, from all sources, with a view to assisting the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to further implement and operationalize the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, particularly for ensuring their participation in the newly emerging global economic system;

4. Commends the ongoing efforts being made to promote improved, expanded and diversified linkages with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society;

5. Notes with satisfaction that a growing number of developing countries are taking a pivotal role in initiating, sponsoring and funding, from their own resources, technical cooperation among developing countries activities aimed at involving a large number of developing countries, welcomes, in this context, the broad criteria, highlighted in the report on progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy,[5] for identifying future pivotal countries, as advanced at the meeting on pivotal countries held in Santiago, Chile, in November 1997, and requests the Special Unit to further refine these criteria for wider application;

6. Notes with appreciation the financial contribution of some developed countries to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and urges the international donor community to contribute generously;

7. Encourages all countries to make an effort, in the context of the new directions strategy, to support economic and technical cooperation activities among developing countries, particularly those that have major impact on a large number of developing countries, through contributions to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;

8. Requests the Special Unit to present to the High-Level Committee at its twelfth session a detailed report on the management and use of the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation;

9. Also requests the Special Unit to document and disseminate successful triangular cooperation arrangements with a view to encouraging greater use by Member States, especially developed countries, of such a cooperation modality in their development cooperation programmes;

10. Welcomes the effort being made by the Special Unit in expanding the Information Referral System into a multidimensional web of information for development to serve as an Internet-based global gateway through which developing countries will be able to share their capacities and successful development practices, commends the Special Unit for assisting developing countries to establish national Web sites for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, and, in that regard, encourages the Special Unit to establish a network among focal points of all developing countries;

11. Invites all countries to make optimal use of the web of information for development system, and further invites all the organizations and agencies of the United Nations to make an effort to strengthen the linkages between their respective information systems relevant to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and the web of information for development system;

12. Urges all the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to intensify efforts to ensure effective integration of the use of the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in their regular programmes and activities, taking into consideration

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[5] TCDC/11/2.

the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on this subject,[6] which was endorsed by General Assembly resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998, and, in this context, requests the Special Unit, in consultation with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations, to develop common indicators for measuring progress and results in implementing these recommendations on a system-wide basis;

13. Calls upon developing, developed and other countries, their intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, to give their full support to the effective implementation of the technical cooperation among developing countries framework, including support for innovative national, regional and interregional programmes and projects and the expanded utilization of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

14. Requests the Special Unit to ensure the effective implementation of the new directions strategy in Africa, bearing in mind the priority areas identified by African countries themselves in the Cairo Agenda for Action, as well as the Tokyo Agenda for Action, which stressed, among other things, the principles of accelerated economic growth for poverty reduction and further integration of the continent into the global economy in addition to the concepts of ownership and global partnership;

15. Welcomes the role of the Special Unit on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in supporting initiatives with regard to small island developing States, including the preparation of a Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme and the launching of a pilot small island developing States Information Network and urges further collaboration in this regard;

16. Emphasizes that, in the context of the application of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, the landlocked, transit developing countries and the donor countries and financial and development institutions should cooperate and intensify their efforts in order to overcome the transit transport problems, inter alia, through improving and further developing the transit transport infrastructure facilities and services and strengthening the institutions and human resources dealing with transit transport, with a view to expanding trade and achieving more equitable integration into the global economy;

17. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme is maintained, and decides to periodically review the impact and functioning of the Special Unit in promoting, monitoring and coordinating technical cooperation among developing countries on a system-wide basis;

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[6] A/53/266/Add.4.

18. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to include in his biennial report to the High-level Committee at its twelfth session information on progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, with emphasis on the implementation of the present decision.

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Distr.
LIMITED

TCDC/11/L.5
2 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Eleventh session
New York, 1-4 June 1999

OVERALL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION AND APPLICATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Proposed by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/205 of 18 December 1997, in which, inter alia, the Assembly took note of the draft revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Recalling also its decision 10/2 of 9 May 1997,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme;[2]

2. Recalls General Assembly resolution 52/205, in which the Assembly invited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, as well as other relevant organizations, taking into account their agreed mandates, work programmes and priorities, to undertake jointly further work on formulating concrete recommendations on the implementation of and follow-up to the San José Declaration and Plan of Action[3] adopted by the Group of 77 at the South-South Conference on Trade, Investment

[1] E/1997/110, annex.

[2] TCDC/11/3.

[3] A/C.2/52/8, annex.

and Finance as well as on the Bali Declaration on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries within the context of South-South cooperation;

3. Takes note of the views expressed at the eleventh session of the High-level Committee, in particular those pertaining to the effective utilization of the guidelines to fully integrate and significantly increase the use of the technical cooperation modality in the development cooperation programmes;

4. Decides to review the revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, as approved by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, at its twelfth session in the year 2001;

5. Stresses that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for the development of developing countries, and, in this context, recalls General Assembly resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998, in paragraph 43 of which the Assembly requested the executive boards of the funds and programmes to review, with a view to considering an increase, the allocation of resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries;

6. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in relation to the mandated functions and increasing responsibilities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Development Countries, to ensure that the Special Unit is adequately staffed so as to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively;

7. Also requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report on the implementation of the present decision to the High-level Committee at its twelfth session.

UNITED NATIONS

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Distr.
LIMITED

TCDC/11/L.6
2 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Eleventh session
New York, 1-4 June 1999

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Mr. Naceur Gharbi (Tunisia)

III. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION

(Agenda items 2, 3 and 4)

A. Statement by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations as the President of the Committee at its eleventh session

1. In calling the meeting to order, the President stated that technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) has evolved as an integral part of an effective mechanism facilitating the exchange of know-how, skills, technical and best practices among developing countries. She recalled that in celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the General Assembly has reaffirmed its validity and urged the need to further increase and expand the utilization of the TCDC modality in development cooperation.

2. The President pointed out that it is through TCDC that the developing countries can strengthen their integration and participation in the world economy. She noted that the new directions strategy has been very effective as a stimulus for the utilization of TCDC modality. She welcomed the efforts of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in taking up the challenge of the new directions strategy, and recommended that it be funded and staffed adequately.

3. She noted that the strategy of capacity and partnership building for the expansion of TCDC has been a major focus over the past two years. The 2000 South summit will provide an appropriate context for the further strengthening

of the practical application of TCDC. She also thanked the donor countries for promoting TCDC, particularly through the triangular cooperation modality, and underscored the role of the United Nations development system in TCDC.

B. Statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

4. In his opening statement, the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) drew attention to the hopes generated by the new era of globalization. Liberalization and the information revolution are expected to fuel increased integration of world markets, resulting in economic expansion and higher living standards worldwide, but the process has bypassed many developing countries. This situation strongly underscores the importance of the basic principles of TCDC - solidarity, collective self-reliance, and international cooperation for development and concerted efforts to build an equitable global economic order. He recalled the international community's stress on the renewed importance of TCDC as an effective strategy for helping developing countries to overcome the threats and seize the opportunities presented by globalization. He highlighted a few important developments marking the progress of South-South technical and economic cooperation during the past two years.

5. The Associate Administrator noted seven recent important developments. First, as development capacities of countries improve, more and more developing countries are not only participating in externally funded TCDC activities but also initiating and funding such activities. Second, TCDC undertakings are moving from single-type training or study tour episodes to more sophisticated and complex forms of exchange. Third, technical and economic cooperation among developing countries is changing from mostly bilateral and intraregional to interregional and global-scale arrangements. Fourth, traditional institutional support is increasingly giving way to more private sector-oriented activities. Fifth, conventional horizontal TCDC cooperation is being enriched by more dynamic and vibrant South-North-South triangular cooperation arrangements. Sixth, TCDC has moved from spontaneous and ad hoc interventions to more deliberate and long-term strategic initiatives. Seventh, typical one-to-one TCDC activities are being replaced by activities encompassing large circle of countries or bodies.

6. The Associate Administrator pointed out that progress achieved in the implementation of both the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions strategy would not have been possible without the total commitment and collective efforts of the developing countries and the strong support of the United Nations development system. The majority of United Nations agencies and organizations have integrated TCDC into their corporate policies, structures and regular programmes. The country and regional programmes of UNDP in more than half their activities embrace TCDC as a strategy or use TCDC in the execution of components of programmes. Approximately $100 million is spent annually on TCDC activities by the United Nations development system, and half those resources are provided by UNDP. In lauding the role of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation in Developing Countries in promoting TCDC, he stated that it is the

nucleus of the multilateral support structure for TCDC and must be further strengthened.

7. The Associate Administrator concluded by highlighting three points. First, South-South cooperation is not just a concept or an end in itself. It is only one important means of freeing people of the South from poverty, joblessness, hunger, homelessness, disease and environmental degradation. Second, TCDC is an enterprise of the South for the South but supported by all. Its success requires the collective efforts of the developing countries, the donor community, the multilateral development system and other actors in development. Finally, global support for TCDC must be provided on a systematic and predictable basis because the bridge across the South eventually benefits all humanity.

C. Introduction of the reports by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries: highlights of the progress reports

8. The Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries introduced the three reports submitted for consideration of the High-level Committee. He explained that the reports are based on information generated through activities sponsored by the Special Unit, information received in response to questionnaires addressed to countries, United Nations agencies and organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and information obtained from the public domain through formal and informal contacts; 60 developing countries, 4 developed countries, 23 United Nations organizations and agencies and 9 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations furnished information.

Review of the progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the decisions of the High-level Committee and the recommendations of the South Commission

9. The report provides an analysis of the information collected, and highlights national and bilateral activities in support of TCDC, support by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to TCDC, and the role of the United Nations development system in promoting TCDC, and offers recommendations for improved TCDC.

10. TCDC now involves a wide range of players, and developing countries have substantially expanded bilateral TCDC programmes by providing increased resources and also under broader international support or triangular cooperation. There are 23 countries distributed in all the four regions, which consider themselves as pivotal countries for TCDC programmes. The countries of the Asia and Pacific region have led the way in self-generated bilateral TCDC activities. More Latin American and the Caribbean countries are participating in horizontal cooperation covering countries beyond the region. There was an increased awareness of the importance of TCDC in the Arab States region. Several countries of Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States had embarked on various forms of horizontal cooperation involving countries of other regions as well. In the case of African countries, the level of TCDC

application remained low although new interregional programmes in the Asia and Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean regions are quite promising.

11. A large number of countries have substantially improved the application of the TCDC modality, including China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand in Asia; Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico and Peru in Latin America; Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda in Africa; Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia in the Arab States region; and Turkey and Malta in the Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States region.

12. The Economic Commission for Africa and the Latin American Economic System, as in the past, have maintained their high profile in promoting TCDC. Notable among other organizations promoting TCDC are the Arab Center for Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, the International Center for Living Aquatic Resource Management and the International Center for Small Hydropower Development, which demonstrate that in addition to national Governments, interregional or international centres of excellence can contribute richly to TCDC.

13. As before, Japan has taken a leading role in fostering triangular arrangements for TCDC. It has also placed additional resources at the disposal of UNDP. Other developed countries, such as Austria, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland and Norway, as well as South Korea, have also promoted triangular programmes, provided direct support to TCDC activities or contributed to the TCDC Trust Fund during the period under review.

14. United Nations agencies and organizations have integrated TCDC quite successfully in their policies and programmes. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) networks for fish technology in Africa and watershed management in Latin American countries deserve recognition. Facilitation and funding programme of FAO has been another means of supporting TCDC. The database on agricultural experts and information system on agricultural science and technology are two of its major programmes for TCDC. The World Health Organization has provided extensive training in relevant experience to experts and technicians of developing countries. The health network in Asia and the Pacific has also made a rich contribution to TCDC. The United Nations Population Fund Partners in Development programme based in Bangladesh is already well known. It has added another useful programme of outreach for the centres of excellence in Mexico, Indonesia and Thailand. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Global Trade Point network deserves mention for promotion of South-South investment. The efforts of the International Trade Centre to develop product networks to facilitate enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization Asia and Pacific regional network on safe pesticide production and information are some of the worthy initiatives.

15. It is estimated that the United Nations development system spends $100 million annually on TCDC activities, and half of that on account of UNDP programmes. In addition to country and regional programmes of UNDP, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries undertakes a number of specific programmes. The Special Unit directs its programme to four categories of activities - (a) strengthening capacities of developing countries for TCDC, especially in such areas as trade and finance, technology for development,

macroeconomic management, production and employment and protection of the environment; (b) deepening South-South dialogue and exchanges on development and globalization; (c) enhancing South-South channels of communication, examples of which are the inclusion of best practices and successful experiences in the TCDC Information Referral System and the creation of national TCDC Web sites; (d) mobilizing global and broad-based support for TCDC and economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC).

16. The review indicates that TCDC continues to be very important for developing countries in meeting the challenge of liberalization and globalization. TCDC offers viable opportunities for improving socio-economic development of developing countries and for enabling their participation and integration in the global economy. More and more developing countries are taking a lead role in initiating, organizing and financing TCDC activities. The United Nations development system is doing a good job in promoting TCDC, and it should continue to play this role. Finally, the review recommends continued resource support for TCDC from all development partners on a more systematic and predictable basis.

Progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

17. The report focuses on the trend towards increased use of the TCDC modality during 1997-1999 as a result of the implementation of the new directions strategy for TCDC. The viability and relevance of South-South cooperation as a development instrument appears more compelling today than ever before. TCDC has not only remained in widespread use; it has continued to grow in popularity and application among developing country partners within the strategy framework established by the new directions for TCDC.

18. The growth and strategic orientation of TCDC can be measured not only through the number and range of TCDC-related projects but also by the spread of new directions-inspired TCDC configurations, including a marked increase in bilateral TCDC projects, the recent phenomenon of donor country involvement in triangular funding schemes, and the increased partnerships among intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other development actors. Given the acceleration in TCDC activities within the past four years, the fine-tuning of the TCDC modality through the new directions strategy, put into place in 1995, appears to have had a positive impact on the usefulness and applicability of the TCDC methodology.

19. With the growth in use of the TCDC modality, TCDC programmes appear to have undergone an evolution from single country-by-country interventions towards more sustained, broad-based applications on a multiple country or regional basis. There is also a steady increase in the number of developing country member States reporting that suitable domestic conditions exist for the management and operationalization of TCDC programmes, namely, an effective domestic focal point mechanism; elucidation of a clear national policy for TCDC; and an established approach to funding TCDC activities.

20. An encouraging trend which has emerged during the reporting period is the emergence of developed countries as third-party or triangular donors within the

TCDC framework. No fewer than six donor countries - led by Japan - have emerged during the past two years to play a role in a variety of TCDC projects. By ensuring that these projects remain true examples of South-South technical cooperation, these donor countries have provided even more proof that TCDC - strengthened by the new directions strategy - is an effective and efficient instrument for inter-country transfers of skills and technology. The endorsement of South-South cooperation by development partners from northern and developed countries and their funding for this modality have given increased strength to technical cooperation among developing countries as we enter the new millennium.

Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

21. The report is in two parts. The first part deals with the implementation of the guidelines for the review of TCDC policies and procedures by the United Nations development system. The overall goal of the revised guidelines is to mainstream the TCDC modality into the operational development activities of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. The overall response of the United Nations development system to the revised guidelines has been positive, with general agreement that these guidelines provide an improved framework for enhancing TCDC elements in their programmes and projects.

22. Among the major elements in the guidelines which have stimulated accelerated use of the TCDC modality, the designation of "pivotal countries" will be particularly effective in spreading "best practices" among developing countries; private-sector partnerships will be generated as a result of emphasis placed on closer operational integration between TCDC and ECDC.

23. The second part of the report deals with organizational and supportive arrangements for TCDC. Information on staffing of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and resources available for the biennium is also provided. In its decision 95/3, the Executive Board of UNDP allocated 0.5 per cent of core programme resources to the promotion of TCDC during the current programme period, 1997-1999. Together with funds in the amount of US$ 1.3 million carried over from the previous programming cycle (1992-1996), these resources enabled the Special Unit to formulate a distinct programme beginning in 1997, which focuses on strengthening developing countries' capacities to intensify cooperation among themselves in strategic areas through exchange of knowledge and networking among institutions of the South.

24. In addition, US$ 8 million were made available by the Japanese Human Resources Development Fund for the promotion of TCDC; US$ 300,000 were provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation; and the Government of Ireland made a contribution of approximately US$ 40,000. Actual expenditure during 1997 was US$ 4.53 million, and projected levels of expenditure for subsequent years of the cycle are expected to adhere to this expenditure trend.

D. Remarks by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

25. The Administrator of UNDP addressed the Committee briefly. He stated that TCDC is so important that he could not miss this last review to be held within his six-year tenure. He indicated that his remarks merely supplement the opening statements of the President and the Associate Administrator and the documentation provided by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

26. He underscored the importance of the fact that many development problems are being solved by the developing countries as well as the countries in transition on their own. He felt that the collection and dissemination of information on these experiences and activities is a matter of priority for TCDC. In many cases, pilot projects and limited experiences simply require upscaling. He thought that the United Nations development system is the right body to promote South-South cooperation and it needed increased resource support for this purpose. He also suggested that concern for TCDC be properly reflected in the Development Assistance Framework that is being prepared for United Nations support of development in the developing countries.

27. He commended the submission of the Secretary-General to the Group of Eight Major Industrialized Countries on the reduction of the debt of the developing countries, and requested all delegations to lend their support to the proposal. Finally, he emphasized the need for funding the multilateral development organizations and agencies by all donor countries. The multilateral system is doing a commendable job in promoting sustainable development across the globe and needs the support of all concerned, the developing and the developed countries.

UNITED NATIONS

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Distr.
LIMITED

TCDC/11/L.6/Add.1
3 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Eleventh session
New York, 1-4 June 1999

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Mr. Naceur Gharbi (Tunisia)

Addendum

IV. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

A. Overview

1. The general debate began with the intervention of the permanent representative of Guyana to the United Nations in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77. He reiterated the commitment to technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) and South-South cooperation in the context of the new and emergent realities and challenges that the developing countries will be facing in the twenty-first century. The process of globalization continues to have a profound effect on the fundamental transformation of the international economic system and to pose increased challenges to the developing countries in a number of different areas. He stated that TCDC and economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) provide the framework for and reflect the continuing commitment of the developing countries to strengthen their solidarity for the dual purpose of supporting their national development efforts and enabling their effective participation in the international economic system.

2. He made it clear that the primary responsibility for promoting TCDC and ECDC lies with the developing countries, and they must maximize the prospects of their individual and collective development. Every effort is being exerted to meet this responsibility, and it would be appropriate to document information on TCDC activities on a systematic basis and present it on an annual basis. He noted with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations system and interested developed countries in promoting TCDC and ECDC, and urged increased contribution to the Trust Fund on South-South Cooperation and the Perez Guerrero

Trust Fund. He also endorsed the framework of triangular cooperation, in which developed countries provide bilateral or multilateral financing to facilitate cooperation among developing countries.

3. Referring to the theme of the Committee at its eleventh session, "the role of TCDC in accelerating growth and equitable development through broad-based partnership", he stated that acceleration of growth in the developing countries must remain a central objective and a high priority in international development cooperation. He explained that increased differentiation among developing countries, far from undermining effective cooperation among the countries of the Group of 77, is strengthening cooperation and self-reliance since countries are learning from each other's experiences. They remain united by a common sense of deprivation and exclusion from the benefits offered by the international economic system.

4. He recorded appreciation for the catalytic role of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in promoting South-South cooperation. He drew attention to the decision of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session calling for closer integration of TCDC and ECDC in operational activities of the United Nations system. He also recognized the contribution of the guidelines on TCDC in reorienting the approach of the United Nations system in utilization of the TCDC modality. Finally, he urged the new United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) administration to strengthen and expand the activities of the Special Unit in order to enable the developing countries to realize their full potential of development. Pointing to the historical significance of the eleventh session, which has been held between the celebration in 1998 of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the South Summit to be held in 2000, he expressed the hope that this has provided an opportunity to define a vision for the future and to clarify the elements of a strategy for international development cooperation.

5. Most member countries indicated their support for the views expressed by the permanent representative on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

6. The Minister Plenipotentiary of Germany, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU), the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the Union and Cyprus and Iceland, confirmed the importance of South-South cooperation through ECDC/TCDC, saying that it complements traditional development cooperation. Regional integration and regional cooperation are also essential in fostering stable economic and social links, and hence deserve the support of development partners. He felt that the best way to realize the potential and maximize the impact of TCDC was to make it an integral part of national and international strategies. He expressed the conviction that South-South cooperation through TCDC/ECDC would accelerate national economic growth in the developing countries and their active participation in the process of economic globalization.

7. He suggested that TCDC's progress was largely dependent on the commitment of concerned Governments and their according priority in national programmes. It was for the developing countries themselves to take the initiative, make

decisions, ensure financing and assume primary responsibility for implementation.

8. He noted that the central target of all technical cooperation was to promote and enhance national potential and capacities. He noted that experts from developing countries are effectively utilized for development cooperation, and national responsibility and ownership of development activities is becoming more pronounced.

9. He detailed the areas of support to TCDC and ECDC provided by the countries represented by him as follows: (a) promotion of intergovernmental institutions in developing countries; (b) technological cooperation with developing countries; (c) use of training facilities in developing countries and financing experts from developing countries; and (d) support to programmes that are important in terms of TCDC for other developing countries. He also expressed support for triangular funding arrangements, and stated that the EU stresses the mainstreaming of the TCDC/ECDC modality and does not regard it as a separate area of activity.

10. Most countries considered that experience with globalization and liberalization underscored the need for collective self-reliance of the developing countries. The threat of the marginalization of developing economies warrants that priority be given to TCDC and ECDC. The developing countries need to work together to overcome their shared vulnerabilities and disadvantages, and to maximize the benefit that they can accrue from the process of the globalization and integration of the global economy.

11. Renewed concern was expressed across the board regarding the decline in voluntary contributions to development aid and the decrease in official development assistance (ODA). TCDC and ECDC alone will not be sufficient to fill in the void, and steps will have to be taken to re-establish commitment to development cooperation. It was reiterated that TCDC/ECDC is not an alternative to North-South cooperation. It is necessary to identify new sources of financing for development and set up new partnerships. Involvement of the private sector and NGOs was welcomed in this context. Renewed efforts are required to give concrete meaning to the directive of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to review with a view to considering an increase in the allocation of resources for TCDC activities.

12. Considerable enthusiasm was expressed for the proposed TCDC Information Referral System (INRES) site, an Internet Web site on information for development. The conversion of TCDC-INRES into a multidimensional web of information was welcomed, and it was explained that it will not only provide a platform for the exchange or clarification of ideas and experiences but also serve as a database for various kinds of information, including national institutions, experts, best practices and technology profiles. It was felt that the greater use of this resource would at the same time promote and facilitate the use of developing country consultants.

13. The interactive exchange in the meeting proved to be very useful in eliciting further information and highlighting issues. It was clear that TCDC activities and successes, especially at the country level, are not being

captured adequately in the biannual progress reports. Important focus was also given to the follow-up to the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II) during the interactive exchange. TCDC activities in the field of science and technology were also discussed. Another item of considerable interest was the mainstreaming of TCDC in United Nations development system interventions. A question was raised on the additionality in the contribution of the Special Unit to the promotion of TCDC. It was stated that the policy guidance by the Committee and its implementation by the Special Unit have additive value. Further, the Special Unit is also piloting methodologies and delivery mechanisms for wider replication, and its information service is facilitating the sharing of experience and best practices. Above all, it is playing the important role of advocacy and mobilization for TCDC. There was a suggestion to document the elements of the various forms of triangular cooperation. In the course of that exchange, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), China and Japan provided additional information on some of their TCDC activities.

B. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the decisions of the Committee and the recommendations of the South Commission

14. Most countries provided detailed information on their TCDC and South-South cooperation policies, programmes and initiatives. The United Nations organizations and agencies supplemented the information provided in the report of the UNDP Administrator (TCDC/11/2).

15. While increased awareness of the TCDC modality and greater commitment to it on the part of the developing countries were generally acknowledged, some countries emphasized the need for greater sensitization of officials in national Governments, the articulation of clearer TCDC policies, the strengthening of focal points and a larger allocation of national resources for TCDC. The issue of better coordination of TCDC policy in agencies as well as in countries was also highlighted by some delegations.

16. Some delegations described new initiatives taken by them to utilize TCDC and ECDC in a more comprehensive and focused manner. Both for provision as well as acceptance of TCDC, coordinating mechanisms involving many actors, including the private sector, have been set up in some countries. In others, focal points have been set up as executive units or special funds have been created to finance TCDC activities.

17. Some delegations referred to the recent financial and economic crisis in East and South-East Asia and elsewhere, and underscored the need for measures targeting greater self-reliance of the developing countries.

18. Most delegations considered that the United Nations development system appears to be much more committed to TCDC, and they are promoting this modality by various means. Guidelines on TCDC have proved to be effective in the promotion of the TCDC modality in the United Nations development system. Networking is considered to be a good way to exchange information and share expertise and experiences. Use of the technical resources of the developing

countries, such as training facilities, expert services and systems and practices, are being made much more extensively and with financial support from many development partners. Transfer of technology from the pivotal countries requires the active support of the development system. The mechanism of triangular cooperation has proved to be very effective for a wider application of the TCDC modality.

19. Great emphasis was placed on developing technical and scientific competence in developing countries, especially in frontier areas of technology. It was suggested that TCDC focus attention on science and technology development. The concept of multiple beneficiaries of strategic interventions of TCDC was especially mentioned for TCDC in science and technology. Attention was drawn to the value of networking and expert-level exchanges for the purpose.

20. There was a specific reference to the role of TCDC in social development. It was suggested that education, health, sanitation or housing are areas in which TCDC can be particularly effective. The overhauling of education to meet the pressures of globalization was considered by one delegation as the crying need of the hour.

21. A number of delegations from both developing and developed countries described activities under triangular cooperation arrangements and extolled the virtue of such cooperation. The return from investments under triangular arrangements was considered very substantial and highly additive. There was an appeal from many delegations for more such arrangements, particularly in view of the decline in ODA.

22. Attention was drawn by some delegations to the special problems of two groups of disadvantaged countries namely, small island developing States and landlocked countries. These countries are usually in the category of the least developed countries and are being marginalized in the process of globalization and economic integration. They are in need of support from their peers in the developing world, and programmes should be tailored to their requirements.

23. Some delegations stressed regional cooperation as an aspect of TCDC and ECDC. It was suggested that it fosters economic and social growth with stability and can be a means to faster process of economic integration.

C. Progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

24. Most delegations expressed a general consensus reaffirming their continued commitment to the new directions strategy for TCDC endorsed by the Committee in its decision 9/2, and felt that the strategic areas of focus, such as trade and investment, macroeconomic management, poverty eradication and the environment, provide the relevant framework for a more substantive orientation for TCDC. The delegations also expressed their satisfaction with the progress that has been achieved so far in the implementation of the new directions strategy, and expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in this regard.

25. Based on reports submitted by the Administrator of UNDP, it was clear that the developing countries have taken ownership of TCDC. It was generally agreed that developing countries are applying the TCDC modality much more in solving their development problems and providing substantially more human and financial resources for TCDC. The pivotal countries, as both contributors and recipients of technical cooperation, are taking the lead in promoting TCDC and ECDC. There was general concurrence that the primary role for ensuring an effective developmental role for TCDC rests with the developing countries themselves. It is for them to take the initiative, allocate the necessary resources for it and manage the application of the TCDC modality. It was felt that this is not only helping TCDC and ECDC but also contributing to an environment of more equitable global economic prosperity. It was felt that funds from donor countries, particularly from the Special Unit, are important, but in the end it was reiterated that TCDC needs full commitment from its main beneficiaries - the developing countries themselves - to succeed.

26. There was widespread agreement that the best way to move forward to accelerate South-South cooperation is to mainstream the use of TCDC, making more efficient use of the existing, limited resources, particularly within the framework of the new directions strategy. There appeared to be optimism among the delegations that TCDC is being brought increasingly into the mainstream activities of technical and economic cooperation. Non-governmental organizations are playing an increasingly important role in promoting and utilizing TCDC, and within the United Nations development system a growing number of agencies are successfully mainstreaming TCDC. For example, UNFPA is playing an important role in promoting TCDC approaches in the area of population development with its centres of excellence programme in developing countries, and FAO has contributed significantly to the integration of TCDC into technical cooperation activities through its four TCDC partnership programmes.

27. Satisfaction was expressed with the increasingly successful regional approach to TCDC, the growing importance of "pivotal countries" which now number 23 members, and the integration of ECDC and TCDC. It was recommended that there be a further refinement of the criteria for identifying pivotal countries to enable countries to accelerate activities in this area, and several delegations suggested ways to maximize the use of ECDC/TCDC through the promotion of intergovernmental institutions in developing countries and training in other developing countries as well as financing experts from developing countries.

28. Appreciation was expressed with regard to support of donor countries in the promotion of TCDC, and it was noted that triangular cooperation has the potential to enrich the contents and resource base of South-South cooperation through the participation of developed countries in broad-based partnerships with non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Since lack of financial resources has been seen as one of the major constraints to TCDC, triangular funding arrangements should be developed through the contributions of developed countries and international organizations.

29. Some delegations felt that one of the most useful and cost-effective ways to promote TCDC is through the collection and dissemination of information on South-South cooperation among developing countries. Delegations welcomed the efforts of the Special Unit to retool INRES into a fully Internet-based system

as the next logical and strategic step in the evolution of INRES. It was further elaborated that this initiative will enable the Special Unit to use the electronic venue to greatly expand the ability of developing countries to accelerate the use of TCDC through the newly designed database. Delegations also appreciated the new format and enriched contents of the Cooperation South Journal, which focuses on critical issues and current problems of interest to developing countries.

30. Several delegations reiterated the importance of the private sector as an engine of growth. In the context of TICAD II, the Africa-Asia Business Forum was mentioned as an example of Africa-Asia cooperation, for which concrete operational results through a variety of business linkages will serve as fertile examples of South-South cooperation. There was also support for further focus on TCDC activities in the social development sector, and a concern regarding the lack of information on the status of TCDC in the areas of science and technology. It was felt by some delegations that real progress cannot be realized without scientific expertise in the equation of TCDC.

31. Finally, some delegations pointed out that the main constraints to the effective and expanded application of TCDC/ECDC remain the lack of clearly defined national TCDC policies, insufficient awareness of TCDC's full potential and importance, and inadequate provision of human and financial resources for TCDC. It was suggested that these constraints can be rectified by the developing countries themselves. Several delegations expressed the view that in order for TCDC to become a full-fledged development vehicle, it is the responsibility of developing countries to formulate coherent national policies to advance the cause of TCDC, including provision of funding from national budgets, the establishment and strengthening of a focal point mechanism and strengthening the awareness of the value of the ECDC/TCDC modality. TCDC was, after all, an enterprise of the South even though it needed support from the international community. It was felt that taking such steps would be conducive not only to the growth of ECDC/TCDC but also to an environment of more equitable global economic prosperity, which would move closer to meeting the aspirations of the developing world.

D. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

32. The delegations agreed that the revised guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system were well formulated and provided a comprehensive framework for the overall goal of mainstreaming TCDC into the operational activities for development of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. It was felt that the great potential for TCDC can be more fully exploited if measures to facilitate the use of TCDC as a matter of first consideration are given special attention, not only by the organizations concerned but also by the Administrative Consultative Committee on a regular basis so that it can become more practically achievable. Recognizing the important role of United Nations resident coordinators in the promotion of TCDC, it was suggested that their role be further strengthened.

33. Several delegations drew attention to the declining resource base, citing a decrease of approximately 20 per cent in ODA. The Administrator of UNDP emphasized the need to sustain United Nations development assistance programmes with a higher level of resources in support of TCDC, and called for increased support by member States. Suggestions for diversifying the TCDC resource base included a variety of innovative funding mechanisms, such as triangular funding and linkages with non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Several delegations noted with satisfaction the allocation of 0.5 per cent of UNDP's core resources for TCDC during the current programme, and expressed the hope that this allocation would be further expanded in the future. One delegation asked for an allocation of 1 per cent of UNDP's core resources for TCDC. The role of the Special Unit, particularly in providing support for the implementation of the new directions strategy, was commended by most countries. There was also unanimity among the delegations on the need to preserve the separate identity of the Special Unit within UNDP. Appreciation was expressed for the financial and technical support provided by a number of donor countries as well as pivotal developing countries.

UNITED NATIONS

TCDC

Technical cooperation among developing countries

Distr.
LIMITED

TCDC/11/L.6/Add.2
3 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Eleventh session
New York, 1-4 June 1999

X. Thematic Discussions: Keynote address and Case Studies Presentation around the theme "The Role of TCDC in accelerating growth and equitable development through broad-based partnerships"

The first part of this session was conducted as an informal meeting for the keynote address which was delivered by Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Secretary General of the Commonwealth and current Chief Negotiator of CARICOM for international economic negotiations with Europe and the Americas. Sir Shridath recalled the formative years of TCDC beginning in 1972, and provided compelling reasons why the South needed to act together with commitment to reach collective positions in its negotiations with the North. He observed that such a posture is imperative to ensure a level "playing-field" given the reality of economic marginalization of many developing countries at the dawn of the new millennium. He stressed the need for increased collaboration among developing countries and appropriate institutional arrangements for equitable and sustainable development of the South. In this regard he suggested the establishment of an OECD-type entity for the South that would pool the best technical talents of the South and act as a centre for the transfer of knowledge to effectively engage in global negotiations for the benefits of all countries. Only on this basis would the South be able to secure the necessary economic space for effective integration in the globalized world.

He made a forceful case for South-South cooperation saying that the South needed economic "space" in the coming century. Specifically, the South needed "space to grow and prosper, space to survive with dignity, space to develop the talents of their people". He noted that the twentieth century had seen a remarkable flowering of human genius and the growth of economic prosperity, but at the same time, we have witnessed great disparities in this globalized world.

Regarding the role of State in the coming century, Sir Shridath noted that while the State would clearly continue to be the primary actor, there would be an increasingly important part for other essential actors such as non-governmental organizations and civil society, a pattern already evidenced in developed countries. He noted that regional groupings, rather than fragmenting the South, were essential stepping stones in unifying and strengthening the regions to facilitate greater interregional and global integration. In terms of the increased role of services in the structure of the global economy, he observed that there was enormous development potential and developing countries must secure their place in this growing area.

The formal meeting resumed in plenary for the second part of the thematic discussions related to the case study presentations. The meeting agreed to the President's proposal to incorporate the highlights of the discussions of the keynote address in the official records of the High-level Committee. Following through on the broad themes of accelerated growth and equitable development through broad-based partnerships, the following four case studies were presented:

(i) Collaboration among Small and Medium-scale Enterprises in Stimulating Growth and Reducing Poverty in Developing Countries - the Indian Experience in Promoting TCDC;

(ii) Promoting Trade and Investments in the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) Region;

(iii) Reducing the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Development Prospects - Ugandan/TASO Experience with others;

(iv) Cooperation among Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the South Pacific in the Area of Marine Biodiversity - an Overview of some of the Initiatives in the South Pacific Region;

(a) Collaboration among Small and Medium-scale Enterprises in Stimulating Growth and Reducing Poverty in Developing Countries. This case study highlights the lessons of India's involvement in small-scale industries on an interregional basis with other developing countries. The National Small Scale Industries Corporation (NSIC) of India has extensive experience spanning two decades in providing technical assistance for development of small and medium-scale enterprises in developing countries in Asia, Latin America and particularly in Africa. Small-scale industries (SSI) are one of the most dynamic sectors in the economy of India and account for a significant share of industrial production and exports. The SSI potential for employment-generation together with low investment requirements and high utilization of local raw materials, is a major contributor to industrial growth and poverty reduction in developing countries. SSI contributes approximately 40 per cent of the total industrial production and 35 per cent of the total export of India. The case study focused on SSI's assistance in the development of small-scale enterprises in 5 African countries - Kenya, Ethiopia, Mali, Namibia and Nigeria - which took the form of study tours, assessments for SSI development, training in skill upgrades and entrepreneurship development, operationally linking ECDC/TCDC. SME development involved broad-based partnerships of the public and private sectors.

Partnerships include Indian commercial banks for funding machinery and equipment. Technology exhibitions are organized to facilitate technology transfer and knowledge dissemination. Participating African countries are exposed to the Indian technical expertise and entrepreneurs through expositions, following which the displayed technologies are transferred to local entrepreneurs who have been trained in their operation. The SSI experience also utilizes triangular cooperation involving financial assistance from such sources as IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development). More than 165 SSI projects totalling US$ 18 million have been exported to 18 countries in Africa and 6 in Asia. Most of them have reported profitable operations.

(b) Promoting Trade and Investments in the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) Region. This case study encompasses four countries of the Southern Cone of Latin America - Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. As an undertaking in subregional economic cooperation, its performance in trade and investment flows has exceeded expectations. The Treaty of Asuncion provided a framework for regional cooperation combining well-defined targets (for tariff cuts, for example) with a broad strategic orientation. Between 1991-1998 the rate of export growth among the participating countries tripled. Thus trade growth stimulated intraregional investment with significant secondary effects that dynamized economic activity in the MERCOSUR Region. For example, parallel to the process of economic integration was the development of national technical capacities through economic/technical cooperation among member developing countries. Most of this cooperation took place within the context of technical negotiations among working parties which resulted in sharing of knowledge, facilities and resources by the MERCOSUR member States, contributing to human resource development in a wide array of public sector agencies. A vast number of public sector officials were exposed to in-the-field training in international negotiations which enabled upgrading of skills in preparation of draft resolution proposals, analysis/interpretation of member country domestic trade regulations and an understanding of the impact on foreign trade of domestic policy decisions. Participation in MERCOSUR has also created demand for more effective inter-agency coordination within each national administration and has also demonstrated the value of triangular technical cooperation especially at the negotiating and implementation stages of projects.

(c) The case study on Reducing the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Development - the Uganda/TASO Experience - highlighted the health and development nexus. AIDS is the single greatest threat to global development which could obliterate the gains made in development. Uganda's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic reflected a multi-faceted and integrated strategy addressing medical, social and economic factors. The key components of Uganda's successful fight against AIDS include political leadership, community empowerment as well as collaboration with civil society and mobilization of the private sector and non-governmental organizations such as TASO (The AIDS Support Organization). HIV programmes in sub-Sahara Africa are utilizing the TCDC modality in programme implementation and advocacy. As a non-governmental organization, TASO collaborates in demonstrating best practices in HIV/AIDS care and prevention, expanding the response to AIDS by strengthening partnerships with institutions in other developing countries, creating technical resource networks of excellence and expertise to respond within a TCDC framework to needs at national and regional levels. The epidemic is a major creator of poverty, causing incomes to drop

over 60 per cent in some affected areas with school drop-out rates as high as 50 per cent. The growing number of orphans - currently estimated at 8 million and growing - due to HIV/AIDS has become a critical problem that merits immediate attention of the international community which should focus on supporting national efforts to combat the epidemic.

(d) The case study on the cooperation among small island developing States in the South Pacific focuses on inter-island cooperation among the 22 member States in marine bio-diversity through such regional institutions as the South Pacific Commission, South Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP), Forum Fisheries Agency and the University of the South Pacific. These countries, members of the South Pacific Community, share extensive marine resources which represent the main opportunities for their economic development. Major initiatives such as marine bio-diversity are more cost-effectively implemented on a regional basis, particularly as they respond to the various international conventions on the environment. The use of regional facilities for training, research, support for policy-making, resource use and management have enabled the countries of the Region to more effectively network and learn from each other in formulating and implementing the various initiatives. The University of the South Pacific Marine Studies Programme is addressing human resource development needs, training 10,000 people a year; through the Forum Fisheries Agency the countries of the South Pacific are managing their tuna resources. There are challenges in successfully coordinating inter-country cooperation in a region as large and diverse as the South Pacific where economies are small and institutional capacities vary. Funding constraints are considerable since external resource and member country budgets are limited. It is worth noting that the regional cooperative arrangements are characterized by broad-based partnerships, utilizing triangular arrangements with financial support from the donor community. This case study provides a good model for regional cooperation and collaboration based on economic needs, common goals, the peaceful use of ocean resources and the management of the marine environment.

UNITED NATIONS

TCDC

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Distr.
LIMITED

TCDC/11/L.7
3 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Eleventh session
New York, 1-4 June 1999

Draft decision

Provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its eleventh session,

1. Approves the following provisional agenda for its twelfth session, to be held in 2001:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee.

3. Progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries.

4. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme:

(a) Implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries;

(b) Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal, informational and financial arrangements).

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5. Thematic discussion (including presentation of country experiences) on the theme: "South/South technology transfer for global integration and sustainable development".

6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

7. Approval of the provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the High-level Committee.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its twelfth session.

2. Requests its Bureau, in cooperation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to adjust the provisional agenda for the twelfth session, as approved at the eleventh session, taking fully into account the results of the eleventh session, as well as developments relevant to technical cooperation among developing countries throughout the world, including at the United Nations and other important international forums.